

March 7, 2018

Email: PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Cannabis Legislation and Regulation Secretariat
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9285 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9J7

Dear Minister Farnworth,

Input to Legalization of Marijuana

At a public meeting, the Board of Education (Richmond) discussed and strongly opposes the legalization of non-medical use of marijuana in order to protect the health and safety of our students.

As a Board, we have the duty to promote the health and safety of our students and protect them from the use of drugs. The legalization of non-medical use of marijuana sends the wrong message to youth that smoking marijuana is harmless and many professional reports from the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Mental Health Association and Canadian Paediatric Society agree that the brain development of youth will not be fully complete until the age of 25 and consuming cannabis prematurely will have detrimental effects on the brain development of young people.

If legalization were to proceed, our Board recommends:

- the prohibition of marijuana products made in the form of candies, cookies, cakes or any foods or drinks that children may accidentally consume.
- The cultivation, smoking, and use of cannabis and cannabis related products should be prohibited in any place, including residences, schools, parks, community centres and recreational facilities where children may reside or be around.
- Any products that contain marijuana must be clearly labelled and carry health warnings similar to cigarettes.
- There should be a low tolerance for drug impaired driving for it would definitely increase the risks to children on the road.

Sincerely,



Dr. Eric Yung, Chairperson
On Behalf of the Board of Education (Richmond)

Board of Education (Richmond)
Superintendent
The Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia
Rich Coleman, Leader of the Official Opposition

Teresa Wat, MLA, Richmond North Centre
John Yap, MLA, Richmond-Steveston
Linda Reid, MLA, Richmond South Centre
Jas Johal, MLA, Richmond-Queensborough

Board of Education:
Eric Yung - Chairperson
Sandra Nixon - Vice Chairperson
Ken Hamaguchi Jonathan Ho Donna Sargent
Debbie Tablotney Alice Wong